

Jan 2, 1963.

Dear Professor Lukacs,

as you will have heard, the book of yours which my wife and I have translated will be coming out within the next few weeks. I am hopeful that it will reach a rather wider public than the Historical Novel, and stimulate a general interest in your work.

I do not know whether you have seen the translation, but I hear that Istvan has approved of it and I hope you will do likewise. It is never easy to translate German into English - I believe we talked of this when we visited you last year - but I think our efforts have been in some small way rewarded.

Now, I have a suggestion to make which may or may not interest you. If it does not, I am sure that you will tell me so quite frankly, and that will be that. But I would naturally be delighted if you felt able to agree.

The suggestion is this: would you be willing to speak about your critical and philosophical writings - avoiding politics as far as possible - in an interview for the Third Programme of the BBC? I have in mind something like the conversation we had when we visited you. It would be largely conversational in tone - requiring no elaborate preparation - but would serve to tell people something of your general views on literature and how

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they came to be formed. I think the appearance of the small book we have translated would be an excellent occasion for this, as it will arouse considerable curiosity and debate.

Mr Lasky of ENCOUNTER Magazine tells me that the Hungarian Writers' Association have been most helpful in enabling Tibor Dery's recent story to be published in his magazine. You can imagine how glad I was to hear this piece of news. Perhaps you would let me know whether you would be interested in my suggestion? Naturally, I should be very glad to conduct the interview myself. But I would perfectly understand if you feel that it is not a good idea in present circumstances. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know one way or the other as soon as possible?

Yours very sincerely

John Mander

— With best wishes for you and your wife

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

for the New Year!